TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE AQUACULTURE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN
Social Challenges

Presenter

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(1) **Aquaculture challenges from the social perspective**

- Lack of aquaculture development (failure or national plans of aquaculture development 2014-2020) : key sector into the BG Strategy

- Many factors of inefficiencies including **SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY** *(The Future of European Aquaculture - EATiP 2012, AQUAMED project, COFASP Workshop 07/2015)*

- Myopia about Social issues of aquaculture
  - (“bad” perception) awareness issue
  - communication solution

- Governance issues are not enough properly addressed

- Update of the Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of EU Aquaculture *(General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, WK 13293/2019 INIT)*
  - Early involvement of local stakeholders, greater acceptability
  - Creation of synergies with other sectors
  - Integrating local communities in the development of the aquaculture sector
1st step of the diagnosis:

- Functioning of the sector
  - Technical dimensions
    - History
    - Institutional context
  - Stakeholders
    - Physical context
- Bottlenecks associated to aqua. development
  - Technical
    - Governance
    - Social Acceptability
    - Economic
    - Social
    - Environmental
    - Others
- Specificities of the territory
  - Others

1st analytical work:

- Difficulties
- Potential action levers
- Scenarios of aquaculture development

2nd step of the diagnosis:

- Factors influencing the social acceptability
  - Communication
  - Impacts of the project
    - Governance issues
    - Pertinence for the territory
    - Others

2nd analytical work:

- Action levers
  - Sustainable projects

(2) Innovative solutions: Participatory Approach to evaluate the Social Acceptability
Work on local case studies

- **Tunisian case study (Bay of Monastir)**
  - Academic exercise with the collaboration of local institutions and research
  - Understand factors of SA
  - Explore scenarios of Aq. develop.

- **Spanish Case study: Andalusia plan of aquaculture development (focus in Malaga)**
  - Accompany an institutional process: regional plan of aquaculture development (no social dimensions, high costs, efficiency)
Some key results (Tunisian case study)

- Participatory process with strong involvement (including from the fishery sector)

- Stability but potential social opposition to aquaculture (develop. under conditions): Transparency, distribution of benefits, environment impacts

- Need to focus on governance mechanisms and to adapt the project to the social processes of the territory in order to promote the development of acceptable projects.

- The work with stakeholders in Monastir Bay highlighted that consultation, the adoption of a systemic vision and transparency are key elements in the social acceptability issues on which it is important to focus.
Some key results (Spanish case study)

- After being approved, a participatory programme has been modified (simplified)
- Problems (more directive implementation, political dependence, external issues)
- The process is driven by the main political objectives (Plan to build)
- Strong opposition from fishermen (no trust, economic viability, etc.)
- Timing of concertation in local territories is long vs short deadlines of administrative plans (if no trust, no SA, … “1 step up and 2 steps back”)
- The process is on standby and probably finished (covid-19 context)
- No institutional conditions for social concertation (only strong engagement of the local agency staff)
(3) Conditions for capitalize new solutions

✓ Institutional good conditions conditions
  ✓ Integrated management (e.g. fishery-aquaculture)
  ✓ Create the frameworks for social debate and consensus
  ✓ Reallocation of means to public agencies (facilitators, budget, social scientists…) rather than only focus on technical issues or technical innovation
✓ Move from regional-national planning to a local shared vision : role of aquaculture in a local territory
✓ Time : social debate and planning require a long time (administrative pressure to quickly finish the next planning)
**Some final recommendations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Analysis of local contexts, stakes and social issues</th>
<th>vs</th>
<th>Projects developed &quot;ex nihilo&quot; without insights on local integration (technical, of course, but also social)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Integration of stakeholders and citizens at the right moment of decision-making processes (as far upstream as possible)</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Information campaigns dating from the thirties (&quot;it's good for you, do not worry, we take care of everything, it's our job&quot;)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sincerity of concerted action</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Processes of &quot;technical administrative concertation&quot; deployed when everything is already decided</td>
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<td>Take the time of the social dialogue</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>Accelerate decision-making</td>
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<td>The cost of not realizing projects because of their social unacceptability</td>
<td>vs</td>
<td>The cost of an accompanying approach to improve the legitimacy of the project</td>
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